

Touting types

TICKET touts came to Adams Park last Saturday as fans desperate to see Wycombe Wanderers play Norwich in the FA Cup tried to get into the ground.

A Star investigation revealed prices of up to £30 were being quoted for £6 terrace tickets in the streets near the ground.

Tickets for the game had sold out before match day, with a record 7,802 crowd. Some fans were heard offering stewards tips to be let in without a ticket, but these were not accepted.

Blues 'turned pitch into cows' meadow'

WYCOMBE Wanderers ruined a club's football pitch after training at Holmer Green before last Saturday's FA Cup match against Norwich, claims a parent.

Outraged Henk Slagter has criticised Holmer Green Football Club for giving the Blues access to the pitch, which young club members, including his son Robert, rarely get to use.

Mr Slagter, 50, of Marys Mead, Hazlemere, claims the youngsters are left to train on ground littered with dog mess, instead.

He claims the Wanderers' session left 40 per cent of the turf virtually ruined.

"It looked like some kind of meadow where the cows had been roaming.

"It was not a nice sight. I am very annoyed."

John Goldsworthy, secretary of Wycombe Wanderers, said: "They offered the facilities for training on the grounds of this club which we were grateful to accept and which we pay for."

The junior team managers at the club were due to meet last night to discuss better training arrangements for the young players.

Manager of the Under-12s squad Mr Andrew Miller said: "We have actually taken this up with the football club and they have promised to put it right."

DUNCAN FARMER reflects on the meeting with Norwich City

IN Saturday's match programme Wycombe was compared with Norwich City very favourably in terms of provincial clubs making it in the big time.

Sadly, the same cannot be said of the Chairboys' footballing antics.

The only way Wycombe were going to win on Saturday was by hassling their opponents off the ball and somehow squeezing it past Scottish international goalkeeper Brian Gunn.

The only people to have beaten him recently are golden boy Andy Cole and Peter Beardsley of one of the Premiership's more stylish teams, Newcastle United.

On Saturday Dave Carroll was, in the second half, unlucky not to score from close range when Gunn pulled off a stunning save.

Otherwise the only questionmark against the result was what the scoreline would be.

Thanks to Paul Hyde the deficit was kept to two.

However, it was a great day for Wycombe complete with the sporting Press and Match of the Day cameras at Adams Park.

And unless Wycombe perform superbly for the next three months, that game will be the biggest of their season.

Comparisons with Norwich were made in a programme article about Wycombe's potential as a Premiership club and an assertion by Andy Worboys that Wycombe could mix it with the best of them.

"In fact with the Division One teams I have seen this season I feel we could hold our own with the Watfords and Lutons of this world. Therefore, if the players can perform on the pitch, I see no reason why we cannot progress upwards or be in awe of anybody," wrote Mr Worboys.

Mr Worboys believes that Wycombe should be seen as the county's top club — a Buckinghamshire United — drawing its crowds from all over the county and far beyond.

He does, however, miss a major point, which I and thousands of football fans, hope does not rub off on manager Martin O'Neill.

"If you are part of a regular group (albeit coming from a long way off) you tend to come more out of habit even if the football itself is not up to much," says the article.

Any new supporters lured to Adams Park by a slick marketing campaign will never return if the standard of football they see is no better than "not up to much".

Supporters will travel hundreds of miles to see a successful side scoring goals, so if the club takes care of the play the punters will take care of themselves.